

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 217

To permit the use of certain United States Postal Service formatting tools by health care organizations to improve the provision of patient matching services.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 3, 2021

Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To permit the use of certain United States Postal Service formatting tools by health care organizations to improve the provision of patient matching services.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Patient Matching Im-
5 provement Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. USE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR-**
7 **MATTING TOOLS.**

8 (a) UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FORMATTING
9 TOOLS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
2 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
3 Health and Human Services, acting through the Na-
4 tional Coordinator for Health Information Tech-
5 nology, shall—

6 (A) collaborate with the United States
7 Postmaster General in order to make its elec-
8 tronic address formatting tools available, as ap-
9 propriate and consistent with the terms and
10 conditions of such tools, to health care organi-
11 zations (including hospitals, physician offices,
12 electronic health record vendors, State and local
13 health departments, registries, laboratories, and
14 other organizations as determined necessary by
15 the Secretary) for use in health information
16 technology systems;

17 (B) ensure that the electronic address for-
18 matted tools that are made available to health
19 care organizations are able to transform single
20 address records and multiple, simultaneous ad-
21 dress records into the United States Postal
22 Service preferred address format; and

23 (C) collaborate with the United States
24 Postmaster General to prevent any limitations
25 on the number of records formatted using the

1 address formatting tools or health care organi-
2 zations that could use the electronic address
3 formatting tools.

4 (2) COVID–19 LABORATORY TESTING.—Not
5 later than 90 days after the date of enactment of
6 this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
7 ices shall collaborate with the United States Post-
8 master General in order to make its electronic ad-
9 dress formatting tools available, as appropriate and
10 consistent with the terms and conditions of such
11 tools, to laboratories engaged in COVID–19 testing
12 to improve, as appropriate, data collection consistent
13 with State and local laws.

14 (3) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 1 year
15 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
16 retary of Health and Human Services shall promul-
17 gate an interim final rule to require the standardiza-
18 tion of addresses in the United States Postal Service
19 format or subsequent health care specific standard
20 as the standard for addresses when communicated
21 through application programming interfaces. The
22 Secretary shall update any applicable standard and
23 certification requirements pursuant to sections 3004
24 and 3001(c)(5) of the Public Health Service Act.

1 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date
2 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and
3 Human Services, in consultation with the United States
4 Postmaster General, shall submit to the Committee on
5 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Com-
6 mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
7 of the Senate, and the Committee on Energy and Com-
8 merce and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the
9 House of Representatives, a report that identifies any bar-
10 riers, as applicable, to making the tools described in sub-
11 section (a) available for purposes of such section if the
12 Postmaster General determines that such tools may not
13 be made available at such time.

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